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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,833	02/06/2002	Andrew L. Norrell	PA1599US	3740

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EXAMINER

SINGH, RAMNANDAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2646

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/072,833

Applicant(s)

NORRELL ET AL.

Examiner

Ramnandan Singh

Art Unit

2646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 February 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date Feb. 20, 2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In line 2, the "DSL signal" is improper; it is suggested that this be changed to "Digital Subscriber line (DSL) signal".

In line 4, the "POTS loading coil" is improper; it is suggested that this be changed to "Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) loading coil".

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

3. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities:

Applicant should provide the status of the copending applications cited in page 1, Paragraph [0001] of the specification.

4. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 1, 12, 18, 28, 31, 32, 44 and 45 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 recites the limitation "DSL signals" in line 1. The "DSL signals" is Improper; it is suggested that this be changed to "'Digital Subscriber line (DSL) signal". A similar thing holds for claims 18, 31, 32, 44 and 45.

Further, claim 12 recites the limitation "POTS loading coil" in line 2. This is improper; it is suggested that this be changed to " Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) loading coil". A similar thing holds for claims 28 and 31.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-10 and 18-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tambe et al [US 20020113649 A1].

Regarding claim 1, Tambe et al teach a system for improving transmission of Digital Subscriber line (DSL) signals over a local loop, the system comprising:

a loop extender capacitively coupled to the local loop, the loop extender including a plurality of upstream complex impedances (i.e. a combination of resistors, capacitors and inductors) coupled in parallel, a plurality of downstream complex impedances coupled in parallel [Fig. 6; Para: 0059-0063; Abstract]; and

a first upstream filter/amplifying element coupled to the plurality of upstream complex impedances and a first downstream filter/amplifying element coupled to the plurality of downstream complex impedances, wherein digital switches are provided [Figs. 4-5; Para: 0007; 0043-0058; claim 1].

Claim 18 is essentially similar to claim 1 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claims 2-3 and 19-20, Tambe et al further teach the system, wherein selection of the plurality of complex upstream impedances to approximately is made (selection switches not shown) to match the local loop impedance (i.e. to compensate loss) in a first direction along the local loop [Fig. 6; Para: 0048; claims 29-30].

Regarding claims 4-5 and 21-22, the limitations are shown above.

Regarding claim 6, Tambe et al further teach the system, wherein at least one additional upstream filter/amplifying element coupled in parallel to the first upstream filter/amplifying element; and at least one additional downstream filter/amplifying element coupled in parallel to the first downstream filter/amplifying element [Figs. 4-5; Para: 0043-0048; 0056-0058].

Regarding claims 7-10 and 23-26, the limitations are shown above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 11 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tambe et al as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Ashley [US 20020090026 A1].

Regarding claim 11, Tambe et al do not teach expressly a first transformer coupled to the plurality of upstream complex impedances and a second transformer coupled to the plurality of downstream complex impedances.

Ashley teaches a transceiver circuit shown in Figs. 2-3, comprising a line drive transformer (126) coupled a receive circuit (129) having upstream data (121A), and to a transmit circuit (123) having downstream data (122) , an inverter (146), switches [Para: 0024] and an amplifier (141) [Figs. 1-4; Para: 0009-0011; 0018-0036; claims 1-17]. It

may, further, be noted that the Ashley's transceiver circuit comprising a single line drive transformer feeding both a receive part and a transmit part is equivalent to the Applicant's claimed system having two separate transformers.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Ashley with Tambe et al in order to enable a DSL system to reliably operate over long local loops [Ashley; Para: 0003].

Claim 27 is essentially similar to claim 11 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

10. Claims 12-17 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Tamble et al and Ashley as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Sommer et al [US 200200610058 A1].

Regarding claim 12, although Tamble et al teach coupling a POTS loading coil adapted to be coupled to the local loop, and power and control unit to the ADSL repeater 400 [Fig. 4; Para: 0044], they do not teach expressly coupling a diagnostic unit to the local loop.

Sommer et al teach using a health checking (i.e. diagnostic) unit (313) for transmitting a diagnostic signal [Fig. 7; Para: 0098-0100; 0016; 0112; Abstract].

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Sommer et al with Tambe et al in order to combat the loss in the actual cable (subscriber loop) [Sommer et al; Para: 0048].

Claim 28 is essentially similar to claim 12 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claim 13, Sommer et al further teach the system wherein the diagnostic/control unit (313) includes: a modem [Para; 0058] coupled to the local loop for communication with a central office; an analog multiplexer/analog-to-digital converter (307) for controlling switches via switch control lines; and a diagnostic/control processor (i.e. microcontroller) coupled to the modem and processing control signals received [Sommer et al; Fig. 7; Para: 0099-0100; 0044; 0047; claims 1-23].

Claim 29 is essentially similar to claim 13 and is rejected for the reasons stated above.

Regarding claims 14-17 and 30, although the combination of Tambe et al , Ashley and Sommer et al do not teach expressly the various configurations of the DSL extender with switches and transformers as claimed, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use any configurations

with switches and transformers in order to accommodate the need of the DSL extender to combat the loss in the subscriber loop subject to circuit, system, and design constraints.

11. Claims 31, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tambe et al [US 20020113649 A1] in view of Summer et al [US 20020061058 A1].

Regarding claim 31, Tambe et al teach a system for improving transmission of DSL signals over a local loop, the system comprising:

selectable line termination and equalization (SLTE) Digital Subscriber line (DSL) amplification circuitry capacitively coupled to the local loop via bypass relay switches (not shown) [Fig. 6]; and

a POTS loading coil (i.e. coil 621 and coil 622) adapted to be coupled to the local loop for improving transmission of POTS band signals over the local loop [Figs. 4-6; Para: 0059-0063; Abstract].

Although Tambe et al teach coupling a POTS loading coil adapted to be coupled to the local loop, and power and control unit to the ADSL repeater 400 [Fig. 4; Para: 0044], they do not teach expressly coupling a diagnostic unit to the local loop.

Sommer et al teach a diagnostic/control unit coupled to the local loop for receiving and processing control signals from a central office using a health checking

(i.e. diagnostic) unit (313) (switch control lines are not shown) [Fig. 7; Para: 0098-0100; 0016; 0112; Abstract].

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Sommer et al with Tambe et al in order to combat the loss in the actual cable (subscriber loop) [Sommer et al; Para: 0048].

Claims 44 and 45 are essentially similar to claim 31 and are rejected for the reasons stated above.

12. Claims 32-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Tambe et al and Sommer et al as applied to claim 31 above, and further in view of Ashley [US 20020090026 A1].

Regarding claim 32, Tambe et al teach the system comprising:
a plurality of upstream complex impedances (i.e. a combination of resistors, capacitors and inductors) coupled in parallel;
a plurality of downstream complex impedances coupled in parallel [Fig. 6; Para: 0059-0063; Abstract];
a plurality of upstream filter/amplifying elements coupled in parallel and selectable [Fig. 5]; and

a plurality of downstream filter/amplifying elements coupled in parallel, wherein digital switches are provided [Figs. 4-5; Para: 0007; 0043-0058; claim 1].

However, Tamble et al do not teach expressly a first transformer coupled to the plurality of upstream complex impedances and a second transformer coupled to the plurality of downstream complex impedances.

Ashley teaches a transceiver circuit shown in Figs. 2-3, comprising a line drive transformer (126) coupled a receive circuit (129) having upstream data (121A), and to a transmit circuit (123) having downstream data (122) , an inverter (146), switches [Para: 0024] and an amplifier (141) [Figs. 1-4; Para: 0009-0011; 0018-0036; claims 1-17]. It may, further, be noted that the Ashley's transceiver circuit comprising a single line drive transformer feeding both a receive part and a transmit part is equivalent to the Applicant's claimed system having two separate transformers.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Ashley with the combination of Tambe et al and Sommer et al in order to enable a DSL system to reliably operate over long local loops [Ashley; Para: 0003].

Regarding claim 33, although the combination of Tambe et al , Ashley and Sommer et al do not teach expressly the various configurations of the DSL extender

with switches and transformers as claimed, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use any configurations with switches and transformers in order to accommodate the need of the DSL extender to combat the loss in the subscriber loop subject to circuit, system, and design constraints.

Regarding claims 34-43, the limitations are shown above.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(i) Vitenberg teaches a transformer (417) connected to upstream and downstream data systems [Figs. 4, 7, 9; Para: 0058];

(ii) Sheno et al [US 6,507,606 B2] teach ADSL methods suitable for long lines [Figs. 1-13; Abstract]; and

(iii) Sheno [US 6,829,292 B1] teaches upstream and downstream filters and amplifiers [Fig. 4; Abstract].

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramnandan Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7529. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (8:00-5:30).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ramnandan Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2646



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER